

**FABRICATION OF IRON OXIDE
NANOPARTICLES/3-
AMINOPROPYLTRIETHOXYSILANE MODIFIED
ELECTRODE FOR Cd (II) IONS AND Pb (II) IONS
DETECTION**

SARASIJAH A/P ARIVALAKAN

UNIVERSITI SAINS MALAYSIA

2019

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by

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**Dissertation submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master
of Science (Material Engineering)
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AUGUST 2019

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that, I have conducted, completed the research work and written the dissertation entitled “**Fabrication of Iron Oxide Nanoparticles/3-Aminopropyltriethoxysilane Modified Electrode for Cd (II) Ions and Pb (II) ions**”. I also declare that it has not been previously submitted for an award of any degree or diploma or other similar title of this for any other examining body or university.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiii
ABSTRAK	xvii
ABSTRACT	xix
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Problem statement	5
1.3 Objectives.....	8
1.4 Scope of research	9
1.5 Thesis outline	9
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW.....	11
2.1 Introduction	11
2.2 Heavy metal pollution	11
2.3 Heavy metal ions detection technique.....	15
2.3.1 Optical detection technique.....	15
2.3.2 Spectroscopy detection techniques	16
2.4 Electrochemical technique	17
2.4.1 Potentiometry	19
2.4.2 Amperometry	19
2.4.3 Voltammetry	20

2.5	Materials used as heavy metal sensor	24
2.5.1	Conventional (bulk or film) materials.....	24
2.5.2	Nanomaterials	28
2.5.2(a)	Metal nanomaterials	28
2.5.2(b)	Carbon based nanomaterials.....	29
2.5.2(c)	Metal oxide nanoparticles	30
2.6	Modification of substrate electrode	34
2.6.1	Substrate electrodes.....	34
2.6.2	Fabrication of sensing material on working electrode.....	36
2.6.2(a)	3-Mercaptopropyltrimethoxysilane (MPTMS)	40
2.6.2(b)	3-Aminopropyltriethoxysilane (APTES)	41
2.7	Summary	43
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY.....		44
3.1	Introduction	44
3.2	Raw materials and chemicals	45
3.3	Stage 1: Synthesis and characterization of IONPs and BiP	47
3.3.1	Synthesis and functionalization of IONPs	47
3.3.2	Synthesis of BiP	49
3.4	Stage 2: (A) Preparation of IONPs modified ITO electrode	51
3.4.1	Cleaning of ITO electrode.....	51
3.4.2	Fabrication of modified ITO electrode	51
3.5	Stage 2: (B) Electrochemical behavior of the modified electrode	51
3.5.1	Apparatus	51
3.5.2	Cyclic voltammetry.....	52
3.6	Stage 3: (A) Sensitivity and selectivity of the modified electrode.....	53
3.6.1	Square wave anodic stripping voltammetry (SWASV)	53
3.6.2	Selectivity of the modified electrode	53

3.7	Stage 3: (B) Application to real water sample	54
3.8	Characterization of IONPs and Bi particles	54
3.8.1	X-ray diffraction (XRD)	54
3.8.2	Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)	54
3.8.3	UV-Visible Near-infrared spectrophotometer (UV-Vis NIR)	55
3.8.4	Field Emission Scanning electron microscopy (FESEM).....	55
CHAPTER 4 RESULT & DISCUSSION.....		56
4.1	Introduction	56
4.2	Properties of synthesized IONPs and BiP	57
4.2.1	Properties of IONPs	57
4.2.2	Properties of produced BiP	60
4.3	Properties of IONPs/APTES/ITO modified electrode	63
4.3.1	Water Contact Angle.....	63
4.3.2	Distribution of IONPs on APTES functionalised ITO electrode .	64
4.4	Optimization of IONPs/APTES/ITO electrode modification	68
4.4.1	Effect of scan rate on IONPs/APTES/ITO electrode.....	68
4.4.2	Effect of soaking time of IONPs.....	69
4.5	SWASV for detection of Cd (II) and Pb (II)	75
4.5.1	Individual detection of Cd (II) and Pb (II) (SWASV analysis) ...	76
4.5.2	Simultaneous detection of Cd and Pb (SWASV).....	81
4.6	SWASV detection of Cd (II) and Pb (II) with addition of BiP during stripping	87
4.7	Interference study	92
4.8	Application in seawater sample.....	94
4.9	Summary	96
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION FOR FUTURE WORK		99
5.1	Conclusion.....	99

5.2	Recommendations for future works	100
	REFERENCES.....	101

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1.1: Heavy metals and its effect to human health (Singh et al., 2011).	2
Table 1.2: Guideline value for heavy metals in drinking water (Aragay et al., 2011b).	2
Table 2.1: Sources of different heavy metals by anthropogenic activity (Paul, 2017)	12
Table 2.2: Health effects of heavy metal toxicity (Gautham et al., 2015).	14
Table 2.3: Applications of bulk materials or films as heavy metal sensor in real samples	27
Table 2.4: Application of different types of nanomaterials for heavy metal sensor.	32
Table 2.5: Source of bismuth, concentration ratio of heavy metal ions to bismuth for <i>in-situ</i> plating of Bi films on substrate electrode.....	38
Table 3.1: Materials and chemicals used in this study.....	46
Table 4.1: Potential difference and ratio of anodic peak current to cathodic peak current of IONPs/APTES/ITO with varying soaking time of IONPs	74
Table 4.2: Calculated effective surface area of the modified electrode	74
Table 4.3: Previous work and current work individual detection comparison on linear range, sensitivity and LOD for Cd (II) and Pb (II)	81
Table 4.4: Comparison of previous work and current work on simultaneous detection of Cd (II) and Pb (II)	86
Table 4.5: Comparison of sensitivity, linear range and LOD for individual and simultaneous detection	87
Table 4.6: Concentration of 23 types of metal ions	93

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 2.1: Colour change of the aggregates in the presence of various representative metal ions of 1 μ M each upon heating from room temperature to 47 °C (Lee et al., 2007)	16
Figure 2.2: Typical electrochemical cell setup	18
Figure 2.3: Cyclic voltammetric analysis of bare Au electrode and modified Au electrodes (Gumpu et al., 2017)	21
Figure 2.4: Principle of ASV technique (March et al., 2015)	22
Figure 2.5: (a) Staircase potential sweep for SWV (t_m : current measured only for a few milliseconds, 1: end of forward scan and 2: end of reverse scan) and (b) principal response curve of difference in current versus applied potential	24
Figure 2.6: Stripping voltammograms of Zn, Cd and Pb at (A) GCE and (B) CFME with (a) bismuth and (b) mercury films (Wang et al., 2000)	27
Figure 2.7: SWASV stripping peak for individual detection of (A) Pb (II) and (B) Cd (II) under concentration range of 5.0-600 nM and 20-590 nM in Acetate buffer solution (pH 5.0) respectively. Insets, are the corresponding plots of stripping peak currents versus concentration of metal ion (Song et al., 2013).....	31
Figure 2.8: DPV curve of varying concentration of Cu (II) (A \rightarrow L: 0 – 11 ppm) with bare ITO	36
Figure 2.9: Self-polymerization process of MPTMS (a) Extreme self-polymerization (Volume of MPTMS : Volume of ethanol = 1:2) (b) Less self-polymerization (Volume of MPTMS : Volume of ethanol = 1:10) (Matcheswala, 2010)	41
Figure 2.10: Functional groups at both ends of APTES (Watté, 2017)	42

Figure 2.11: SEM image self-assembled GNSs on the surface of the APTES functionalized substrate electrode (Jing et al., 2007).....	42
Figure 2.12: Self-assembly of AuNP with the aid of APTES (Matcheswala, 2010)	43
Figure 3.1: Overview of research flow for heavy metal ions detection using BiP/IONPs modified ITO electrode	45
Figure 3.2: Flowchart of IONPs synthesis and surface functionalization.....	49
Figure 3.3: Flowchart of BiP synthesis	50
Figure 3.4: Schematic diagram of electrochemical cell setup.....	52
Figure 4.1: The XRD pattern of IONPs functionalized with 0.25 g/ml citric acid	58
Figure 4.2: TEM image of IONPs functionalized with 0.25 g/ml of citric acid	59
Figure 4.3: Particle size distribution of IONPs functionalized with 0.25 g/ml of citric acid.....	59
Figure 4.4: UV-Vis absorbance for IONPs functionalized with 0.25 g/ml of citric acid	60
Figure 4.5: The XRD pattern of synthesized BiP	62
Figure 4.6: (a) SEM image of BiP and (b) chemical elements mapping of the area (intensity of bismuth increases from black to red) (c) EDX spectrum of BiP	62
Figure 4.7: Particle size distribution of synthesized BiP	63
Figure 4.8: Water contact angle measurement.....	64
Figure 4.9: (a) APTES functionalization on ITO, (b) APTES functionalized ITO electrode and Citric acid functionalized IONPs and (c) SAM of IONPs on ITO electrode.....	66
Figure 4.10: Distribution of IONPs on 5% APTES functionalised ITO electrode: (a) Bare ITO (b) 30 min soaked IONPs (c) 60 min soaked IONPs (d) 90 min soaked IONPs (e) 120 min soaked IONPs (f) 150 min soaked IONPs (g) IONPs/ITO (inset: water contact angle)	67
Figure 4.11: EDX area scan on IONPs/APTES/ITO electrode	68

Figure 4.12: Effect of scan rate of the IONPs/APTES/ITO	69
Figure 4.13: Cyclic voltammograms of IONPs/APTES/ITO with varying soaking time of IONPs in 5 mM of $K_3Fe(CN)_6$ at 50 mV/s scan rate	71
Figure 4.14: Effect of different soaking time of IONPs on electrical conductivity of 5% APTES functionalized ITO electrode in 5 mM of $K_3Fe(CN)_6$ at 50 mV/s scan rate	71
Figure 4.15: Redox reaction of Cd (II) and Pb (II)	76
Figure 4.16: (a) Stripping peak of Cd (II) for 100 ppb, (b) stripping response of varying concentration of Cd (II) and (c) linear calibration plot for Cd (II) with concentration ranging from 1 ppb to 10 ppb	78
Figure 4.17: (a) Stripping peak of Pb (II) for 100 ppb, (b) linear calibration plot for Pb (II) with concentration ranging from 40 ppb to 80 ppb Pb and (c) Stripping response of varying concentration of Pb (II).....	80
Figure 4.18: Stripping peak of simultaneous detection of 100 ppb of Cd (II) and 100 ppb of Pb (II), (b) Stripping peak current obtained for Cd (II) and Pb (II) simultaneous detection (30 ppb to 100 ppb), and (c) Linear calibration plot for detection of Cd (II) in electrolyte containing both Cd (II) and Pb (II) ions.....	84
Figure 4.19: (a) SWASV stripping peak response of 100 ppb of Cd (II) with and without the addition of BiP and (b) Bar chart of I_p response for Cd (II)	89
Figure 4.20: (a) SWASV stripping peak response of 100 ppb of Pb (II) with and without the addition of BiP and (b) Bar chart of I_p response for Pb (II)	90
Figure 4.21: (a) SWASV stripping peak response of 100 ppb of Cd (II) and Pb (II) with and without the addition of BiP and (b) Bar chart of I_p response for Cd (II) and Pb (II).....	92
Figure 4.22: Stripping peak of Cd (II) in ICP multi-element solution.....	94
Figure 4.23: SWASV stripping response of seawater sample collected near Seagate industrial area without and with Cd (II) spiked	95

Figure 4.24: SWASV stripping response of seawater sample collected at Pantai Jerejak without and with Cd (II) spiked.....	96
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LIST OF SYMBOLS

A	Ampere
C	Celcius
g	Gram
Hz	Hertz
L	Liter
M	Molarity
m	Milli
s	Second
V	Volt
Δ	Delta
Θ	Theta
μ	Micro

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

$[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]^{3-}$	Ferricyanide
AAS	Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy
A_e	Effective Surface Area
Ag	Silver
Ag/AgCl	Silver/Silver chloride
Al	Aluminium
APTES	3-Aminopropyltriethoxysilane
As	Arsenic
ASV	Anodic Stripping Voltammetry
Au	Gold
AuNPs	Gold Nanoparticles
B	Boron
Ba	Barium
Bi	Bismuth
$\text{Bi}(\text{NO}_3)_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Bismuth Nitrate Pentahydrate
Bi_2O_3	Bismuth Oxide
BiFE	Bismuth Film Electrode
BiP	Bismuth Particle
C	Carbon
Ca	Calcium
Cd	Cadmium
CFME	Carbon-Fibre Microelectrode
CNP	Carbon Nanoparticles
CNT	Carbon Nanotube
Co	Cobalt
Cr	Chromium
CT	Chitosan
Cu	Copper
CV	Cyclic Voltammetry
CVG	Cold Vapor Generation
D	Diffusion Coefficient

DME	Dropping Mercury Electrode
DPASV	Differential Pulse Anodic Stripping Voltammetry
DPV	Differential Pulse Voltammetry
EBP	Emeraldine Base Polyaniline
EDX	Energy Dispersive X-Ray
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
Fe	Iron
$\gamma\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$	Iron Oxide (Maghemite)
Fe_3O_4	Iron Oxide (Magnetite)
$\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Iron (II) Chloride Tetrahydrate
$\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$	Iron (III) Chloride Hexahydrate
FePc	Iron Phthalocyanines
FESEM	Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope
Ga	Gallium
GCE	Glassy Carbon Electrode
HCl	Hydrogen Chloride
Hg	Mercury
HMDE	Hanging Mercury Dropping Electrode
HNO_3	Nitric Acid
IC	Ion Chromatography
ICP-MS	Inductively Coupled Plasma - Mass Spectroscopy
ICP-OES	Inductively Coupled Plasma – Optical Emission Spectroscopy
In	Indium
IONPs	Iron Oxide Nanoparticles
I_p	Current Peak
ISE	Ion-Selective Electrode
ITO	Indium Tin Oxide
K	Potassium
$\text{K}_4\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6$	Potassium Ferrocyanide
KCl	Potassium Chloride
Li	Lithium
LIBS	Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy
LOD	Limit of Detection
LSV	Linear Sweep Voltammetry

Mg	Magnesium
MMA (III)	Monomethylarsonic Acid
Mn	Manganese
MPTMS	3-Mercaptopropyl Trimethoxysilane
MWCNT	Multiwalled Carbon Nanotube
n	Number of Electron Transfer
NA	Nafion
NaCl	Sodium Chloride
NaOH	Sodium Hydroxide
Ni	Nickel
NMC	Nitrogen Doped Microporous Carbon
O	Oxygen
Pb	Lead
ppb	Parts Per Billion
ppm	Parts Per Million
PSS	Polysodium 4-Styrene-Sulfonate
Pt	Platinum
PVG	Photochemical Vapor Generation
RCA	Radio Corporation of America
SAM	Self-Assemble Monolayer
SERS	Surface-Enhanced Raman Scattering
-SH	Sulphydryl Group
Sn	Tin
SnO ₂	Tin Oxide
SPCE	Screen Printed Carbon Electrode
SPE	Screen Printed Electrode
SPGE	Screen Printed Gold Electrode
SPR	Surface Plasmon Resonance
Sr	Strontium
SWASV	Square Wave Anodic Stripping Voltammetry
SWV	Square Wave Voltammetry
TA	Terephthalic Acid
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscopy
Tl	Thallium

TMFE	Thin Mercury Film Electrode
UV/Vis spectrometry	Ultraviolet Visible Spectrometry
UV-Vis NIR	Ultraviolet-Visible Near Infrared Spectrophotometer
WHO	World Health Organization
XRD	X-Ray Diffraction
Zn	Zinc
E_p	Peak Potential

**FABRIKASI DAN PENGUBAHSUAIAN ELEKTROD
MENGUNAKAN NANOPARTIKEL BESI OKSIDA/3-
“AMINOPROPYLTRIETHOXYLSILANE” SEBAGAI PENGESAN UNTUK
Cd (II) ION DAN Pb (II) ION**

ABSTRAK

Pencemaran logam berat telah menjadi kebimbangan besar pada masa kini kerana ia menyebabkan pelbagai masalah kesihatan. Kebanyakan analisa telah dijalankan di makmal menggunakan “Inductively Coupled Plasma Spectrometry” dan “Atomic Absorption Spectrometry” yang mahal, memerlukan kakitangan yang terlatih dan tidak sesuai untuk analisa di tapak. Pengesan elektrokimia mengatasi kelemahan ini, tetapi elektrod untuk pengesan ini perlu diubahsuai untuk meningkatkan kepekaan dan pemilihan itu. Dalam kajian ini, nanopartikel besi oksida (IONPs) telah disintesis menggunakan kaedah “co-precipitation”. Bismut partikel (BIP) telah disintesis dengan menggunakan kaedah hidroterma. IONPs telah dipasang sendiri di atas oksida indium timah (ITO) elektrod dengan bantuan 3-“aminopropyltriethoxysilane” (APTES). Kesan masa rendaman APTES/ITO di dalam IONPs (30, 60, 90, 120 dan 150 min) telah dikaji. Sifat elektrokimia IONPs/APTES/ITO telah dikaji dengan menggunakan analisa voltammetri berkitar (CV) dan gelombang anodik persegi - pelucutan voltammetri (SWASV). 90 min IONPs/APTES/ITO elektrod dipilih sebagai optimum kerana ia memberikan kekonduksian yang tinggi dan luas permukaan berkesan, A_e . Julat linear untuk Cd (II) dalam pengesanan individu adalah 1 - 10 ppb dengan kepekaan $110.59 \mu\text{A ppb}^{-1}$ dan had pengesanan (LOD) 2.5 ppb. Kepekaan untuk Pb (II) adalah $7.01 \mu\text{A ppb}^{-1}$ dalam julat linear 50-70 ppb dengan LOD 2.09 ppb. Untuk pengesanan serentak, julat linear untuk Cd (II) adalah 30 ppb - 70 ppb dengan

kepekaan $5.69 \mu\text{A ppb}^{-1}$ dan LOD 9.15 ppb. Manakala bagi Pb (II) puncak itu hanya diperhatikan untuk kepekatan 80 dan 100 ppb. Puncak yang jelas telah dihasilkan dalam kajian gangguan, menandakan elektrod yang diubah suai itu sangat sensitif dan selektif terhadap pengesanan Cd (II). Akhir sekali, IONPs/APTES/ITO telah digunakan untuk sampel air laut, Cd (II) dikesan dengan kepekatan 14.13 ppb dan 26.84 ppb untuk sampel dari pantai Seagate dan Pantai Jerejak masing-masing. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa elektrod IONPs/APTES/ITO boleh digunakan sebagai sensor logam yang berat.

**FABRICATION OF IRON OXIDE NANOPARTICLES/3-
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(II) IONS AND Pb (II) IONS DETECTION**

ABSTRACT

Heavy metal pollution has become the biggest concern nowadays as it causes various health issues. Most analysis have been carried out in laboratory using Inductively Coupled Plasma Spectrometry and Atomic Absorption Spectrometry that are expensive, requires trained personnel and not suitable for on site analysis. Electrochemical sensors overcome these drawbacks, but the working electrode needs to be modified to enhance its sensitivity and selectivity. In this work, iron oxide nanoparticles (IONPs) was synthesized using co-precipitation method and bismuth particles (BiP) was synthesized by using hydrothermal method. The IONPs was self-assembled on indium tin oxide (ITO) electrode with the aid of 3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane (APTES). The effect of soaking time of APTES/ITO in IONPs (30, 60, 90, 120 and 150 min) was investigated. Electrochemical properties of IONPs/APTES/ITO were studied using cyclic voltammetry (CV) and square wave anodic stripping voltammetry (SWASV) analysis. The 90 min IONPs/APTES/ITO electrode was chosen as the optimum as it showed high conductivity and effective surface area, A_e . The linear range for Cd (II) in individual detection was 1 – 10 ppb with sensitivity of $110.59 \mu\text{A ppb}^{-1}$ and limit of detection (LOD) of 2.5 ppb. The sensitivity for Pb (II) was $7.01 \mu\text{A ppb}^{-1}$ in the linear range of 50 – 70 ppb with LOD of 2.09 ppb. For simultaneous detection, the linear range for Cd (II) was 30 ppb – 70 ppb with sensitivity of $5.69 \mu\text{A ppb}^{-1}$ and LOD of 9.15 ppb. While for Pb (II) the peak was only observed for 80 and 100 ppb. A well-defined peak was produced from

interference study, signifying the modified electrode was highly sensitive and selective towards detection of Cd (II). Finally, the IONPs/APTES/ITO electrode was applied for seawater samples, where by Cd (II) was detected with concentration 14.13 ppb and 26.84 ppb for samples from Seagate beach and Pantai Jerejak, respectively. The findings revealed that the IONPs/APTES/ITO electrode can be used as a heavy metal sensor.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The term heavy metal is defined as chemical elements with atomic weight in between 63.5 to 200.6 and metal density greater than 5 g/cm³ (Srivastava and Majumder, 2008). Usually, heavy metal enters the environment by natural (volcanic activity) or anthropogenic (manmade) means. The discharge of waste from vast industrial activity, mining and agriculture contains a certain amount of heavy metals as well, if the waste was not managed before discharging to the environment. The most commonly found heavy metals in waste water effluents are arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), copper (Cu), lead (Pb), mercury (Hg), nickel (Ni), silver (Ag) and zinc (Zn) (Akpor, 2014). Studies performed in Penang reported the presence of Cd, Cr, Cu, Fe and Pb in surface water of major rivers in Penang namely, Sungai Muda, Sungai Jarak, Sungai Kerian, and Sungai Kongsu (Alsaffar et al., 2016).

Frequent exposure of this heavy metals, either directly (workplace) or indirectly (ingestion of contaminated food and water) can cause severe health issues. Singh et al. (2011) have summarized the effect of heavy metals to human's health as in Table 1.1. These heavy metals exhibit high toxicity even in trace amount. Thus, it is important for us to monitor the concentration of heavy metal in surface water to avoid contamination in living organisms. Aragay et al. (2011b) have summarized the permissible limit guideline for heavy metal contamination in drinking water as tabulated in Table 1.2 according to World Health Organization (WHO) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Table 1.1: Heavy metals and its effect to human health (Singh et al., 2011).

Heavy Metals	Sources	Health issues
Arsenic	Pesticides, Fungicides, Metal smelters	Bronchitis, Dermatitis, Poisoning
Cadmium	Welding, Electroplating, Pesticides, Fertilizers, Cd & Ni batteries, Nuclear fission plant	Renal dysfunction, Lung disease, Lung cancer, bone defects, gastrointestinal disorder, kidney damage
Chromium	Mines, Mineral sources	Nervous system damage, fatigue, irritability
Copper	Mining, pesticides production, chemical industry, metal piping	Anaemia, liver and kidney damage, stomach and intestinal irritation
Lead	Paint, pesticides, smoking, automobile emission, mining, burning of coal	Mental retardation in children, developmental delay, fatal infant encephalopathy, congenital paralysis, nervous system damage, liver, kidney, gastrointestinal damage
Manganese	Welding, fuel addition, ferromanganese production	Inhalation or contact causes damage to central nervous system
Mercury	Pesticides, batteries, paper industry	Tremors, gingivitis, minor psychological changes, nervous system damage, protoplasm poisoning
Zinc	Refineries, brass manufacture, metal plating, plumbing	Zinc fumes have corrosive effect on skin, nervous system damage

Table 1.2: Guideline value for heavy metals in drinking water (Aragay et al., 2011b).

Heavy metal	Provisional Guideline value (ppb)	
	WHO	EPA
Arsenic, As	10	10
Cadmium, Cd	3	5
Copper, Cu	2000	1300
Lead, Pb	10	15
Mercury, Hg	1	2
Nickel, Ni	70	40
Zn	3000	5000